



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION  
LANSING


RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

MICHAEL P. FLANAGAN  
STATE SUPERINTENDENT

July 22, 2013

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: State Board of Education

FROM: Michael P. Flanagan, Chairman 

SUBJECT: Approval of Criteria for Section 99h: Competitive FIRST Robotics Grants

From the appropriation made under Section 99h of the FY2013 State Aid Act, \$3,000,000 has been appropriated for competitive grants that expand opportunities to improve mathematics, science and technology skills by participating in FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competitions. FIRST is a nation-wide program that is available to students grades 7-12 to promote skills in mathematics, science and technology. The Competitive FIRST Robotics Grants are to be paid directly to qualifying districts via the State Aid Management System and directly support the continuation or beginning of FIRST Robotics programs in public school districts throughout the State of Michigan.

It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the criteria for the Section 99h: Competitive FIRST Robotics Grants as attached to the State Superintendent's memorandum dated July 22, 2013.

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608 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30008 • LANSING, MICHIGAN 48909  
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MICHIGAN  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Criteria for Section 99h: Competitive FIRST Robotics Grants

The State Board of Education has adopted as its mission "All students graduate ready for careers, college, and community."

To the extent possible, all grant criteria and grant awards will serve to further attain the above goal.

**PRIORITIES, POLICIES, AND PROGRAMS THAT THESE CRITERIA SUPPORT**

This grant supports the State Board of Education's overall goal by supporting programs that prepare students in the fields of technology, science, and mathematics.

**PURPOSE / BACKGROUND OF GRANT**

☒ Competitive    ☐ Formula    ☒ New    ☐ Continuation

The FY2013 State Aid Act appropriated \$3,000,000 for the 2013-14 school year for competitive grants to districts that provide pupils in grades 7-12 with expanded opportunities to improve mathematics, science, and technology skills by participating in events hosted by a science and technology development program known as the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics.

**CRITERIA**

Date criteria were last approved: n/a

☒ Defined in Statute    ☐ Defined in Department's Approved Grant Application to the Funder    ☒ Proposed by Staff

Defined in Statute:

- All districts applying for a FIRST Tech Challenge middle school grant or a FIRST Robotics Competition high school grant shall submit an application in a form and manner determined by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE). To be eligible for funding, a district shall demonstrate in its application that the district has established a partnership for the purposes of the high school FIRST Robotics Competition program (referred to hereafter simply as a "FIRST Robotics Program") with at least one sponsor, business entity, higher education institution, or technical school.

Proposed by Staff:

- Applicants will found a middle school FIRST Tech Challenge program or a high school FIRST Robotics program in the 2013-2014 school year and register their team with [www.usfirst.org](http://www.usfirst.org) or,
- Applicants have a current FIRST Robotics program, team number, and coach in place and will use funds available for his or her salary or costs related to FIRST Robotics Program.

### **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS/TARGET POPULATION TO BE SERVED BY GRANT**

Eligibility requirements:

All individual public school districts, public school academies, and intermediate school districts that enroll students or operate a FIRST Robotics or Tech Challenge team on behalf of their constituent districts, are eligible if they satisfy the following requirements:

- Have a current FIRST Robotics or Tech Challenge program in place that will continue through the 2013-2014 school year.
- Propose to begin a FIRST Robotics or Tech Challenge program in the 2013-2014 school year.
- Program must serve students in grades 7-12.

### **TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE**

\$3,000,000

### **STATUTE**

P.A. 60 of 2013 School Aid, Section 99h

### **OFFICE ADMINISTERING GRANT/PROGRAM CONTACT**

Linda Forward, Director  
Office of Education Improvement and Innovation  
[forwardL@michigan.gov](mailto:forwardL@michigan.gov)  
517.241.3147

Bruce Umpstead, State Director of Educational Technology and Data Coordination  
Office of Education Improvement and Innovation  
[umpsteadb@michigan.gov](mailto:umpsteadb@michigan.gov)  
517.373.3186